

CEQA Scoping Meeting: Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Upper Santa Clara River (USCR) Basins

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control
Board in conjunction with USCR Stakeholders

December 8, 2015

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Purpose and Agenda

- Meeting Purpose
 - Solicit Comments on Scope and Content of Environmental Analysis
 - ✓ Ideas and Comments will Contribute to the Completeness and Relevance of Analysis
- Meeting Agenda
 - Background on the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Requirement (*RB Staff*)
 - CEQA -Regulatory Background (*RB Staff*)
 - USCR SNMP & Management Alternatives (*CLWA*)
 - CEQA Checklist (*CLWA*)
 - Q&A Session



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The Recycled Water Policy's SNMP Requirement



- Adopted February 2009
- Supports Strategic Plan Priority to promote sustainable local water supply
 - Optimize recycled water use
- Ensure long term beneficial use of water
 - Protect basin water quality

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Stakeholder Process



- Collaborative process
 - Local water and wastewater entities
 - Local salt/nutrient contributing stakeholders
 - Open to all stakeholders
- Locally driven and controlled
- Stakeholder funded
- Regional Board Participation



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Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) Requirement

- SNMPs for every basin/sub-basin in the state
 - Consistent scope, detail dependent on site-specific factors
 - May address constituents other than salts and nutrients
 - Should include Stormwater Recharge/Reuse component
 - Final submission date - 2016
 - Implementation plans to be adopted by Regional Water Boards as Basin Plan Amendments.
 - **Compliance with CEQA**



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Elements of a SNMP



Management Measures are the Focus of the CEQA Analysis



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CEQA - Regulatory Background

- **CEQA: California Environmental Quality Act**
- **(Public Resources Code §21083.9).**
 [A] lead agency shall call at least one scoping meeting for
 [a] project of statewide, regional, or areawide significance
- **(14 CCR §15251(g)).**
State and Regional Boards' basin planning process has
been certified by the Secretary of Resources as exempt
from certain requirements of the California Environmental
Quality Act (CEQA), including preparation of an initial study,
negative declaration, and environmental impact report



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CEQA - Regulatory Background Cont'd

(23 CCR §3777 (a))

Any water quality control plan, ... proposed for board approval or adoption must include or be accompanied by Substitute Environmental Documentation (SED)

Written report including a description of the proposed activity

- Alternatives analysis
- Identification of mitigation measures
- Environmental checklist



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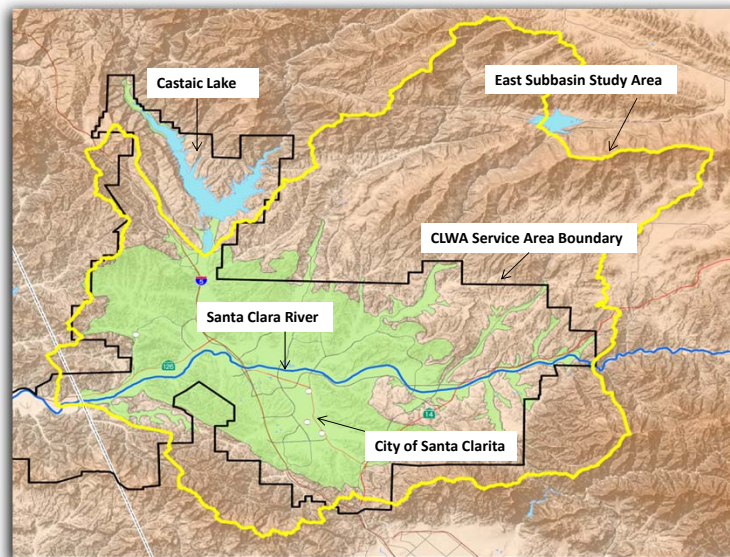
Potential Environmental Impacts

- Evaluate General Areas of Potential Impacts
- Four (4) Categories of Impacts
 - Potentially Significant Impact
 - Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
 - Less than Significant
 - No Impact



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Upper Santa Clara River SNMP Region



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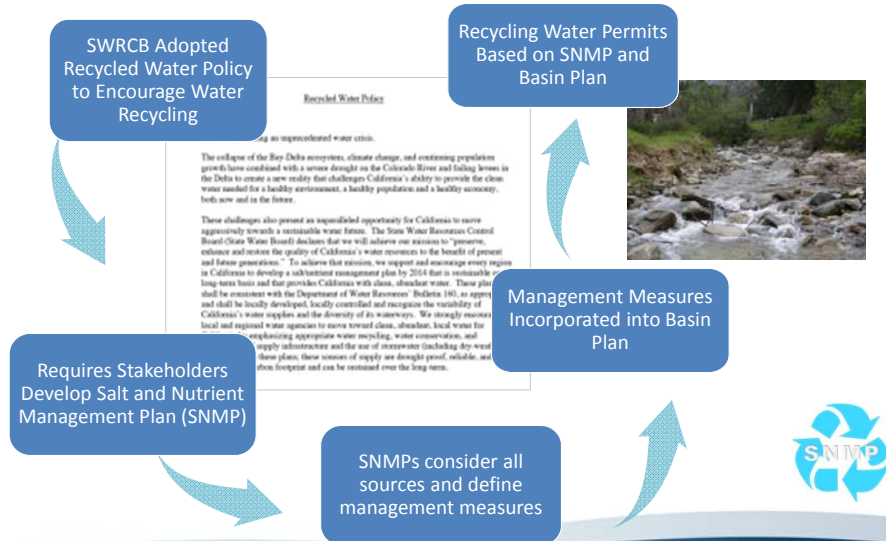
Upper Santa Clara River SNMP

- Presentation Overview
 - Overview of USCR SNMP Development
 - Santa Clara River Valley East Sub-basin Water Quality
 - SNMP Water Quality Assessment
 - Existing, Future, and Proposed Projects
 - ✓ Implementation Measures
 - CEQA SED Analysis and Environmental Impacts



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What is a SNMP?



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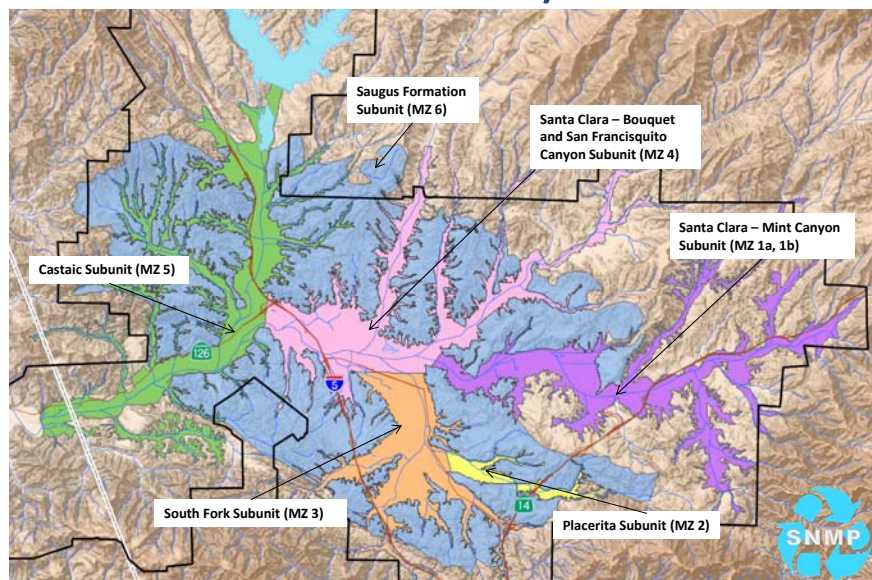
SNMP Scope of Work

- Comprised of Required Elements and “Suggested Elements” pursuant to the Recycled Water Policy
- Funded by Round 1 Planning Grant (\$165,000)
- Contracted with Geoscience Support Services, Inc. in November 2011 to develop the SNMP
- Being developed through a Stakeholder process that began in 2011, comprised of:
 - Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Regional Water Management Group
 - IRWM Plan Stakeholders
 - Regional Water Quality Control Board



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Santa Clara River Valley East Subbasin



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Unique Characteristics

- Ventura and Los Angeles Counties
- Groundwater and surface water interaction
- Alluvial Aquifer overlying large Saugus Formation
- Regulatory constraints
 - Chloride Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
- Recycled water use is an important new water supply in 2010 Santa Clarita Valley Urban Water Management Plan
 - 3,050 acre-feet per year by 2020
 - 9,600 acre-feet per year by 2030



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East Sub-Basin Water Quality Salt and Nutrient Sources

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| • Surface Water | • Return Flows |
| • Groundwater | • Treated Waste Water Discharge to Santa Clara River |
| • Storm Water | • Agricultural Land Use |
| • Urban Flows | • Landscape Irrigation |
| • Recycled Water Irrigation Application | • Septic System Use |
| • Rainfall | |



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SNMP Water Quality Assessment Existing Data and Modeling Approach

- Selected Salt and Nutrient for Investigation
 - Total Dissolved Solids
 - Chloride
 - Nitrate
 - Sulfate
- Selected Study Periods
 - 2001 -2011 – Historical Water Quality and Spreadsheet Model Calibration Period
 - 2012-2035 – Salt and Nutrient Planning Period
- Determine existing salt and nutrient groundwater quality and assimilative capacity



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Basin Objectives and Ambient Groundwater Quality

Chemical	Management Zone 1a		Management Zone 1b		Management Zone 2		Management Zone 3		Management Zone 4		Management Zone 5		Management Zone 6	
	BO ¹	Ambient ²	BO	Ambient	BO	Ambient	BO	Ambient	BO	Ambient	BO	Ambient	BO	Ambient
	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L
TDS	800	728	800	833	700	-	700	-	700	710	1,000	727	700	636
Chloride	150	89	150	72	100	-	100	-	100	77	150	77	100	28
Nitrate	45	20	45	21	45	-	45	-	45	16	45	8	45	14
Sulfate	150	138	150	269	150	-	200	-	250	189	350	246	-	235

Shaded cells indicate where ambient groundwater quality conditions exceed Basin Plan Objectives



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Groundwater Quality Modeling Scenarios

- Baseline Condition and “Land Use Build-Out Conditions” (No Project)
- Individual Projects and “Land Use Build-Out Conditions”
- All Projects Combined and “Land Use Build-Out Conditions”



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Implementation Measures



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Existing Salt and Nutrient Implementation Measures

Implementation Measure	Category	MZ*
MS4 Permitting	Stormwater/Runoff Management	All
Valencia and Saugus WRP Treatment Upgrades	Wastewater Salinity/Nutrient Source Control	4
Industrial Wastewater Control Programs	Wastewater Salinity/Nutrient Source Control	All
SCVSD Automatic Water Softener Rebate Program	Wastewater Salinity/Nutrient Source Control	3, 4, 5
LACDPW Stormwater "First Flush" Policy	Source Water Salinity Control	4
1999 SCVSD Ordinance Prohibiting New Residential SRWS	Institutional	3, 4, 5
SCVSD Measure 5	Institutional	3, 4, 5
SCVSD Commercial and Industrial Regulations on SRWS Ban and Chloride Discharge Limits	Institutional	3, 4, 5
Water Quality Monitoring	Regulatory/Non-Regulatory	All
State Regs for GW Replenishment Using RW	Land Use Regulation	All
LARWQCB Permits for GW Recharge	Land Use Regulation	All
RW Non-Potable Reuse Regulations, Guidelines, and Permits	Land Use Regulation	All
CASGEM Monitoring	Land Use Regulation	All
Water Conservation Act of 2009 (SBX7-7)	Conservation	3, 4, 5, 6
Emergency Drought Mandates	Conservation	All
TMDLs for Chloride, Bacteria, and Nitrogen	TMDLs	All

* MZ = Management Zone

Future Salt and Nutrient Implementation Measures

Implementation Measure	Category	MZ
SWRCB Statewide NPDES for CWS	Stormwater/Runoff Management	All
Projects from Reconnaissance Study	Groundwater Recharge	1
Vista Canyon WRP*	Groundwater Recharge	1
Newhall Ranch WRP*	Groundwater Recharge and Wastewater Salinity/Nutrient Source Control	5
City/County MS4 Stormwater Infiltration Basins	Groundwater Recharge and Regulatory/Non-Regulatory	All
SCVSD Chloride Compliance Program*	Wastewater Salinity/Nutrient Source Control	4, 5
SCV Water Use Efficiency Programs*	Source Water Salinity Control and Conservation	All
SCWD Water use Efficiency Programs*	Source Water Salinity Control and Conservation	1, 2, 3, 4
CLWA Recycled Water Master Plan*	Conservation	3, 4
SNMP Monitoring	Regulatory/Non-Regulatory	All
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act	Regulatory/Non-Regulatory	All
ASR in Saugus Formation (conceptual)	Groundwater Recharge	2, 3
Brine Line to Ventura County (conceptual)	Wastewater Salinity/Nutrient Source Control	All
State Regulations for Potable Reuse(conceptual)	Regulatory/Non-Regulatory	All

* Future Projects modeled individually and in combination in the SNMP

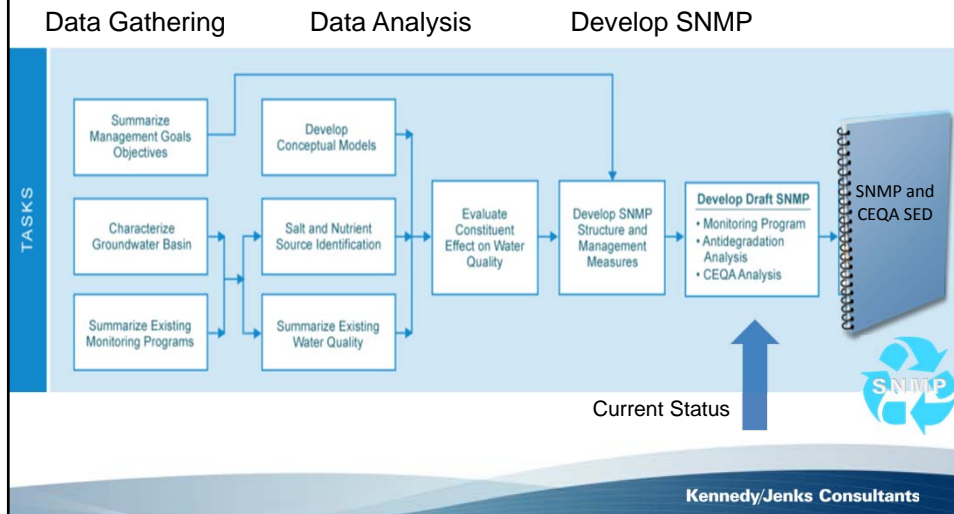
Summary of SNMP Results

- Completion of the SNMP is necessary to:
 - Implement future recycled water projects
 - Inform the 2015 UWMP, Recycled Water Master Plan Update and Reconnaissance Study
- Implementation of the USCR SNMP represents a “maximum benefit” to the State
 - Provides beneficial uses for recycled water by increasing the assimilative capacity for each constituent
- Current and planned implementation measures are improving groundwater quality in the Basin
- Proposed projects that potentially increase salt concentrations in groundwater are more than offset by implementation measures that decrease concentrations in groundwater



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SNMP Status



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CEQA SED Analysis and Environmental Impacts

- Earth
- Air
- Plant and Animal Life
- Noise
- Light and Glare
- Land Use
- Natural Resources
- Risk of Upset
- Population
- Housing
- Transportation/Circulation
- Public Services
- Energy
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Human Health
- Aesthetics
- Recreation
- Archaeological/Historical
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Water Quality



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Potential Environmental Impacts

Earth


- Unstable earth
- Soil disruptions or compaction
- Change in topography
- Modification of geologic features
- Wind and water erosion
- Modification of channels, bays etc.
- Geologic hazards (e.g., landslides)

Air

- Air emissions, deterioration of air quality
- Creation of objectionable odors
- Alteration of air movement

+ = Potential Impact
 - = No Potential Impact

SCVSD Chloride Compliance Project	+
CLWA SCV WUE Strategic Plan	-
SCWD WUE Programs	-
Vista Canyon WRP	+
Newhall Ranch WRP	+
CLWA Recycled Water Master Plan	+



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Potential Environmental Impacts

Plant Life and Animal Life

- Change in diversity or number of plant or animal species
- Reduction of unique, rare or endangered plant or animal species
- Introduction of new species
- Reduction in agricultural acreage
- Deterioration of existing habitat

Noise


- Increases in existing noise levels
- Exposure of people to severe noise levels

Light and Glare

- Produce new light and glare

+ = Potential Impact
- = No Potential Impact

SCVSD Chloride Compliance Project	+
CLWA SCV WUE Strategic Plan	-
SCWD WUE Programs	-
Vista Canyon WRP	+
Newhall Ranch WRP	+
CLWA Recycled Water Master Plan	+



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Potential Environmental Impacts

Land Use

- Alteration of land use

Natural Resources

- Increased rate of use of natural resources
- Depletion of nonrenewable natural resource

Risk of Upset

- Risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances

Population


- Alter location, distribution, density or growth

Housing

- Affect existing housing or create additional demand

+ = Potential Impact
- = No Potential Impact

SCVSD Chloride Compliance Project	+
CLWA SCV WUE Strategic Plan	-
SCWD WUE Programs	-
Vista Canyon WRP	+
Newhall Ranch WRP	+
CLWA Recycled Water Master Plan	+



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Potential Environmental Impacts

Transportation/Circulation


- Increased vehicular movement
- Impact on existing parking, new parking
- Impact on transportation systems
- Alterations to patterns of movement of people or goods
- Alterations to water, rail or air traffic
- Increase in traffic hazards

Public Service

- Fire & police protection
- Schools
- Parks or other recreation
- Maintenance of facilities, roads
- Other government services

+ = Potential Impact
- = No Potential Impact

SCVSD Chloride Compliance Project	+
CLWA SCV WUE Strategic Plan	-
SCWD WUE Programs	-
Vista Canyon WRP	+
Newhall Ranch WRP	+
CLWA Recycled Water Master Plan	+



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Potential Environmental Impacts

Energy

- Use of substantial fuel or energy
- Increased demand or development of new sources of energy

Human Health

- Creation and/or exposure of people to health hazards

Aesthetics


- Obstruction of scenic vista open to the public
- Creation of offensive site open to public view

Recreation

- Impacts to quality or quantity of recreational opportunities

+ = Potential Impact
- = No Potential Impact

SCVSD Chloride Compliance Project	+
CLWA SCV WUE Strategic Plan	-
SCWD WUE Programs	-
Vista Canyon WRP	+
Newhall Ranch WRP	+
CLWA Recycled Water Master Plan	-



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Potential Environmental Impacts

Archeological/Historical

- Alteration of a significant archaeological or historical site

Greenhouse Gas Emissions


- Generate greenhouse gas emissions directly or indirectly
- Conflict with adopted plan or policy reducing greenhouse gases

Utilities and Service Systems

- Power or natural gas
- Communications systems
- Water
- Sewers or septic tanks
- Storm water drainage
- Solid waste disposal

+ = Potential Impact
 - = No Potential Impact

SCVSD Chloride Compliance Project	+
CLWA SCV WUE Strategic Plan	+
SCWD WUE Programs	-
Vista Canyon WRP	+
Newhall Ranch WRP	+
CLWA Recycled Water Master Plan	+



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Potential Environmental Impacts

Water Quality

- Changes in currents or direction of water
- Changes in absorption rates, drainage, or runoff
- Flow of flood waters
- Amount of surface water
- Alteration of surface water quality
- Alteration of direction or flow rate of groundwater
- Change in quantity or quality of groundwater
- Reduction in water for public supplies
- Water related hazards such as flooding

+ = Potential Impact
 - = No Potential Impact

SCVSD Chloride Compliance Project	+
CLWA SCV WUE Strategic Plan	+
SCWD WUE Programs	+
Vista Canyon WRP	+
Newhall Ranch WRP	+
CLWA Recycled Water Master Plan	+



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CEQA SED Mandatory Findings of Significance

Mandatory Findings of Significance

- Potential to degrade the environment
- Potential to achieve short-term (benefits) to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals
- Cumulatively considerable impacts
- Substantial adverse effects on human beings



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CEQA SED Schedule

- Mid-February – Administrative Draft CEQA SED
- Mid-March – Public Draft CEQA SED
 - 25 Day Comment Period
- Mid-Late Spring – RWQCB Board Consideration and Adoption



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CEQA Comments

- Additional Comments Due By: 5:00 PM, Friday, December 18, 2015
 - State comments verbally during this meeting
 - Complete the provided Comment Card & hand to LARWQCB before the end of this meeting
 - E-mail comments to: Ginachi.Amah@waterboards.ca.gov
**(Please indicate "CEQA for USCR East Sub-basin SNMP" as Subject)*
 - Mail written comments to:

Dr. Ginachi Amah
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013



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Useful Websites

- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board SNMP Website:
 - http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/salt_and_nutrient_management/index.shtml
- USCR East Sub-basin SNMP Website:
 - <http://www.ladpw.org/wmd/scr/index.cfm?fuseaction=documents>



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Questions

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

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USCR SNMP (Castaic Lake Water Agency)

Contact: Cathy Hollomon

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